



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVE

Overview: The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) is a national juvenile justice reform model developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 1992. The JDAI model was created to respond to juvenile justice systems that were largely arbitrary, discriminatory, expensive, and ineffective. JDAI is a process, not a conventional program, which means JDAI helps restructure policy and practice to create system improvements that reach far beyond detention alone. Nationally, JDAI is being replicated in 125 jurisdictions in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

In 2006, JDAI was implemented in Minnesota in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Dakota counties with support from the Office of Justice Programs, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. The Minnesota JDAI vision is to build a juvenile justice system in Minnesota that is equitable, efficient, and effective in maintaining public safety, healthy youth, and positive community outcomes through systemic reform. This is achieved by implementing the eight core JDAI strategies: collaboration, data driven decisions, objective admission criteria and instruments, case processing reforms, reforms in handling special detention cases, alternatives to secure detention, improved conditions of confinement, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities. Taken together these eight strategies are in essence a formula for juvenile justice system improvement by bringing all stakeholders together including those most impacted by the system to use data driven decisions on how to best meet public safety needs, community needs, and the needs of youth and families.

Since JDAI implementation the three pilot counties have successfully reduced the inappropriate use of secure detention without compromising public safety. Data from the three pilot sites indicates that the average daily facility population for the sites combined declined by 56% between 2005 and 2009 and the youth of color average daily population declined by 45%. In addition, since 2008 recidivism rates for juveniles released on detention alternatives on average have been less than 2% and failure to appear to court rates have been less than 6%. Moreover, the three pilot sites have conservatively saved a combined 13.4 million dollars through cost avoidance, cost reduction, and staff redeployment.

The success achieved in the three pilot sites has allowed JDAI to expand in 2009 to St. Louis County with additional support from the Office of Justice programs, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

2010 GRANTEES	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Association of Minnesota Counties	State JDAI Coordination
Hennepin County	JDAI Replication
Ramsey County	JDAI Replication
St. Louis County	JDAI Replication